

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the use of alpha (2) macroglobulin ("α2M") receptor as a heat shock protein receptor, cells that express the α2M receptor bound to an HSP, and antibodies and other molecules that bind the α2M receptor-HSP complex. The invention also relates to screening assays to identify compounds that interact with the α2M receptor, and modulate the interaction of the α2M receptor with its ligand, such as HSPs, and methods for using compositions comprising α2M-receptor sequences for the diagnosis and treatment of immune disorders, proliferative disorders, and infectious diseases.

10

15

20

25

30

35